

Name: John Moran, MA

Title of Hearing: Social Security Hearing scheduled for July 15

I urge the committee to repeal the Government Pension offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

As a retired Massachusetts Public School teacher I did not contribute to Social Security. However, as a member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard and latter as a member of the United States Army Reserve I did make small social security payments based on my small, citizen/soldier earnings in these military organizations. These payments were the full required contributions based on my earnings. They were not reduced because I fell under the GPO and WEP. Yet, my small social security benefit in retirement will be greatly reduced because I was a Massachusetts teacher.

This is blatantly discriminatory.

I didn't expect a large SS benefit as I didn't have large earnings in the reserve, but to see it slashed is unfair. It is especially unfair when social security benefits are given to certain groups who never contributed anything to the program.

Since I contributed, I should receive the full benefit as determined by my social security deductions and not a reduced benefit because I was also an educator. Where is the incentive for public service if it will be penalized with a reduced social security benefit in retirement?

The penalty is especially harsh for those who work in the private sector for many years and contribute to social security and then decide to become educators in states where their teaching pay is not subject

to SS. Those individuals are again discriminated in retirement by the GPO/WEP.

I urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.